GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1702
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
SHARING OF RAVI-BEAS WATER
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal;Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision in the Ravi-Beas Water Sharing Agreement of 1981 that Punjab can utilize more water than Rajasthan's requirements until Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its entire share of water;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to direct Bhakhra- Beas Management Board to release the remaining 0.60 MAF water to Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Agreement dated 31.12.1981 among the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on sharing of surplus Ravi-Beas waters provided the following:

"
(ii) Until such time as Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its full share, Punjab shall be free to utilize the waters surplus to Rajasthan's requirements. As Rajasthan will soon be able to utilize its share, Punjab shall make adequate alternative arrangements expeditiously for irrigation of its own lands by the time Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its full share. As a result, it is expected that during this transitional period when Rajasthan's requirements would not exceed 8.0 MAF, 4.82 MAF of water should be available to Punjab in a mean year when the availability is 17.17 MAF."

(b) It would be Government's endeavour to do so after the issue is amicably resolved among the States at an opportune time.

(c) Punjab Legislature on 12.07.2004 enacted a Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 terminating the said agreement and all other agreements on Ravi-Beas waters. A Presidential Reference in the matter is before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and its outcome could clarify the position of the agreement after which the concerned States could amicably settle the issue.